

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 9, please insert the following:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Please amend the paragraph on Page 1, line 10 to line 12 as follows:

The invention concerns a method of operating a gas-discharge lamp as set forth in the classifying portion of claim 1 and claim 2 respectively, for example, such as a fluorescent lamp, and a power supply unit for carrying out that method.

Page 1, line 27, please insert the following:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please amend the paragraph on Page 1, line 31 to line 34 as follows:

That object is attained by a method having the features of claim 1 and claim 2 wherein voltage pulses are superimposed on the lamp dc voltage component; or wherein the lamp is operated in an upper brightness range with dc voltage, with dc voltage and superimposed voltage pulses, or with a preferably high-frequency ac voltage while it is operated in the lower brightness range with dc voltage and superimposed voltage pulses, or only with voltage pulses, respectively, and a A power supply unit as set forth in claim 11 implements the methods in that there are provided or can be connected a running voltage source for supplying the dc voltage and a pulse source for supplying the voltage pulses. Advantageous embodiments and developments of the invention are set forth in the appendant claims.

Page 3, line 1, please insert the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS--

Page 3, line 11, please insert the following:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--